



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Milwaukee County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Task Forces to Identify Recommendation for Acute Mental Healthcare Provider

Milwaukee, WI (Nov. 19, 2015) The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, the governing body for the Behavioral Health Division, announced today the selection of board members for two task forces to investigate the next step in the process to select a provider for mental health acute care services. These services include psychiatric emergency department, observation beds, acute adult beds and acute child and adolescent inpatient beds. On October 22, 2015 the board voted to create two separate board task forces. One will evaluate a local public-private partnership. The other will evaluate potential national entity options. Each task force will include three voting members of the board with a possible non voting member of the board and three members of BHD's leadership team. Both groups will move forward simultaneously.

Task force on: Local Public / Private Partnership:

- Duncan Shrout, Chair, Board Member
- Jeff Miller, Secretary, Board Member
- Pete Carlson, Board Member
- Dr. Jon Lehmann, Board Member
- Patricia Schroeder, Administrator, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
- Dr. John Schneider, Chief Medical Officer, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
- Alicia Modjeska, Chief Administrative Officer, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division

Task force on National Partnership

- Tom Lutzow, Chair, Board Member
- Dr. Robert Chayer, Secretary, Board Member
- Mary Neubauer, Board Member
- Patricia Shroeder, Administrator, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
- Dr. John Schneider, Chief Medical Officer, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
- Alicia Modjeska, Chief Administrative Officer, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division

"This is an important step forward for our board," stated Chairperson Kimberly Walker. "This will be a thorough process and enable our board members to leverage their expertise to identify a provider that aligns with our vision for high quality, patient centered and community based mental health care in Milwaukee County."

The task force meeting schedules will be posted on the Milwaukee Mental Health Board website. The board determined at its October 22, 2015 meeting that task force meetings may move into closed session for strategic discussions. Both task forces are expected to have recommendations for the full board in April 2016.

In July 2015, the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division released an RFP for acute care services as part of the next significant phase of the mental health redesign in Milwaukee. Viable providers were required to have substantial experience with person-centered, trauma-informed, recovery-oriented care that also engaged community-based services in mental health and substance use treatment. This new model would allow BHD to focus on what the

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organization does best – assure access to high-quality community based services. In September 2015, BHD leadership, with unanimous support of the RFP review panel, suspended the RFP in pursuit of other alternatives.

About the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MHB) was established in 2014 through Wisconsin Act 203. The board is made up of 13 members and includes mental health professionals, consumers and advocates. The MHB is responsible for setting policy for the Behavioral Health Division.

About the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division

The Behavioral Health Division provides care and treatment to adults, children, and adolescents with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities through both County-operated programs and contracts with community agencies. Services include intensive short-term treatment through our crisis services and inpatient services, as well as a full array of supportive community services for persons with serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

About the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services

The mission of the Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services is to enhance the quality of life for individuals who need support living healthy, independent, and safe lives within our community. Our vision is to be recognized as the public model of excellence, leadership, and partnership in human services driving superior outcomes for our community.

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For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview contact Kimberly Kane at (414) 202-5762 or kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov